

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00

OTPE-00 FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00

BIB-01 L-03 CAB-02 DODE-00 DOTE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

ACDA-07 PM-04 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06 /097 W

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R 071952Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8754

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY QUITO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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GENEVA FOR TELATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, PFOR, TSPA, CO

SUBJECT: MEETING ON GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITES

REF: STATE 296186

1. AT A MEETING ON DECEMBER 6 BETWEEN FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES JOAQUIN FONSECA AND POL CONSELOR, PRINCIPAL TOPIC DISCUSSED WAS SUBJECT MEETING AND GOC OBJECTIVES. FONSECA, WHO HAS FONOFF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPACE AFFAIRS, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE FORMULATION OF COLOMBIA'S THESIS ON ORBIT SOVEREIGNTY AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATION TO THE MEETING. FONSECA WAS PLEASED AT THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING. IT WAS AGREED, HE SAID, TO CREATE A SECRETARIAT REPRESENTING THE COUNTRIES PRESENT AT THE MEETING, WHICH WOULD HAVE A ROTATING CHAIRMAN, BEGINNING WITH COLOMBIA.

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THE IMMEDIATE PURPOSE OF THIS SECRETARIAT WOULD BE TO

CONCERT ACTION BY THESE COUNTRIES AT THE GENEVA BROADCASTING SATELLITE CONFERENCE. DONSECA SAID THE COUNTRIES WOULD CONVENE A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE TO PREPARE A JOINT POSITION.

2. COUNTRIES PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE, IN ADDITION TO COLOMBIA, BRAZIL, CONGO, ECUADOR, INDONESIA, KENYA, UGANDA AND ZAIRE. GABON AND SOMALIA WERE ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND BUT CONFERENCE WAS ORGANIZED RATHER HURRIEDLY, FONSECA EXPLAINED AND THOSE COUNTRIES HAD NO TIME TO SEND DELEGATIONS, ALTHOUGH THEY INDICATED INTEREST IN DOING SO. SAO TOME WAS ALSO ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND BUT, IN THE RUSH, NO ONE THOUGHT OF INVITING IT. BRAZIL WAS PRESENT AS AN OBSERVER ONLY, BECAUSE IT HAD RATIFIED THE 1967 OUTER SPACE TREATY AND THEREFORE FELT UNDER SOME CONSTRAINT, FONSECA SAID, BUT WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT "AS A COUNTRY WHICH FEELS IT HAS BROADER WORLD INTERESTS" BRAZIL IS SOMEWHAT CHARY ABOUT TOO CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE EQUATORIAL GROUP. NEVERTHELESS, BRAZIL WOULD SUPPORT POSITIONS AGREED TO BY CONSENSUS OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES. FONSECA MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT BRAZIL HAD AGREED EARLIER TO RENOUNCE ITS PROJECT TO LOCATE A SATELLITE IN STATIONARY ORBIT OVER COLOMBIA, WHICH HAD CAUSED SOME RESENTMENT IN COLOMBIAN POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES (BOGOTA 9703).

3. FONSECA REMARKED THAT COLOMBIA'S CHIEF DIFFICULTY AT THE MEETING WAS TO REIN IN THE MORE "EXTREMIST" DELEGATIONS, WHICH HE CITED AS ECUADOR, KENYA, UGANDA AND ZAIRE. HE WAS AT PAINS TO EMPHASIZA AND TO RESTATE THAT COLOMBIA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN CONFRONTATION WITH THE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE U.S. COLOMBIA REALIZED FULL WELL, HE SAID, THAT EQUATORIAL COUNTRIES' CLAIMS COULD NOT PROSPER IF ADVANCED COUNTRIES ERECTED A "NEGATIVE WALL" TO THESE CLAIMS, WHICH HE BELIEVED WERE REASONABLE AND LEGALLY FOUNDED. HE POINTED OUT THAT INTERNATIONAL LAW IS IN A STATE OF CONTINUING EVOLUTION, AND STATED THAT GEOSYNCHRONOIC ORBIT, UNLIKE OUTSPACE, IS FIXED, MEASURABLE, AND A LIMITED RESOURCE. THE EQUATORIAL STATES, HE WENT ON, REALIZE THAT THEY CANNOT MONOPOLIZE OR CONTROL ORBITAL SEGMENTS OVER THEIR COUNTRIES, THAT THEY WILL NEED ADVANCED COUNTRIES' TECHNOLOGY TO BENEFIT FROM THIS RESOURCE. AND MUST SEEK THEIR COOPERATION.

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4. COLOMBIA'S THESIS ON ORBITAL SOVEREIGNTY, FONSECA SAID, HAVE GAINED INCRESING ATTENTION WITHIN THE GOC AS AN IMPORTANT MATTER. HE PREDICTED THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ WOULD SOON MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN THIS REGARD.

5. FONSECA PRESENTED POL COUKSELOR WITH COPY OF OFFICIAL ENGLISH TEXT OF 9-PAGE COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY ATTENDING

COUNTRIES AT END OF MEETING, DECEMBER 4. COMMUNIQUE IS
ESSENTIALLY STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ALREADY PRESENTED IN
NOVEMBER 24 FONMIN NOTE TO EMBASSY (BOGOTA 11894) AND IN
FONMINLIEVANO'S ADDRESS TO 30TH AND 31ST UNGA. EMBASSY
POUCHING TEXT TO DEPARTMENT. AND TO GENEVA FOR TELATT.
SANCHEZ

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